

Government Officials Are Deluded About The Limits Of Their Power

by CATHERINE RAMPELL | [THE WASHINGTON POST](#) | NOVEMBER 28, 2014



I hate to break it to you, dear readers, but our government is in the midst of an identity crisis.

If the revered Founding Fathers had clear-cut ideas about which branch of government does what, how the powers counterbalanced one another and how jurisprudence and justice are supposed to be carried out, it's all gotten a bit jumbled in recent months. At all levels of government — federal, state and local — public officials are exhibiting behaviors and exercising powers that no dutiful acolyte of "[Schoolhouse Rock!](#)" would recognize.

Maybe "identity crisis" isn't quite the right turn of phrase. It's really more a series of delusions, or perhaps misunderstandings, about who's actually responsible for what.

Consider the evidence.

- Public prosecutors seem to believe they are defense attorneys. At least that appears to be true in the case of St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney [Robert McCulloch](#). Typically, grand jury hearings are one-sided affairs in which the prosecution gets to cherry-pick only the most incriminating evidence in order to obtain an indictment, leaving out any evidence that might help a potential defendant. Hence the famous quip that any decent prosecutor could get a grand jury to [indict a ham sandwich](#). But McCulloch and his team effectively cross-examined their own witnesses to discredit their case against Darren Wilson, [by gently, leadingly questioning Wilson](#) and aggressively challenging any witnesses who contradicted Wilson's account. This can only be explained by McCulloch's apparent confusion over who his client was.

- State legislators (and their constituents) seem to believe they are the Supreme Court. At least that appears true in one insubordinate state, Arizona, where voters this month approved a [ballot initiative](#) allowing the state to ignore any federal action or program deemed "unconstitutional." How is a law's federal constitutionality decided? By state legislators and Arizona voters. This is a power usually



reserved for the judicial branch, and ultimately the Supreme Court, but no matter. The ballot initiative's supporters say it will come in handy when trying to dismantle the [Affordable Care Act](#), as well as federal directives [on immigration](#). Speaking of which . . .

- President Obama seems to believe he is a “[king](#)” or “[emperor](#),” titles he said he’d need to unilaterally suspend deportation actions en masse, right before he unilaterally suspended deportation actions en masse.
- Local police departments seem to believe they are [the military](#), rolling into suburbia in armored vehicles while aiming assault rifles and other weapons of warfare at the civilians they are supposed to serve and protect. At other times, the police seem to believe they are tax collectors, seizing civilians’ cash [without ever filing charges](#) and then putting the proceeds into [public coffers](#).
- Governors seem to believe they are mathematicians, capable of reversing the rules of arithmetic. [Maryland Gov.-elect Larry Hogan \(R\) says](#) he will make good on his campaign promise to cut taxes, despite next year’s projected budget shortfall of nearly \$600 million. Back in Arizona, Gov.-elect Doug Ducey (R) promises to eliminate the state’s personal and corporate taxes, while somehow [increasing spending on education](#), amid an existing budget shortfall. Of course, Kansas’s recently reelected governor, Sam Brownback (R), has been using [similarly magical arithmetic](#) for a while now.
- The speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives seems to believe he is a special prosecutor. Or something to that effect. In suing Obama for failing to execute a section of the Affordable Care Act that he and his party *also* oppose and want nixed, John Boehner (R-Ohio) has cast himself among the likes of other beloved speak-truth-to-power legends such as Kenneth Starr.
- Congress more generally seems to believe it has no responsibilities whatsoever, at least when it comes to passing laws. Again, that power has been somewhat ambivalently ceded to the president.

All very disorienting.

Maybe it’s time to send in some McKinsey-style consultants to meet with public officials and walk them through what their legally defined duties and responsibilities — and boundaries to those duties

and responsibilities — are. It'll be like that "Office Space" scene where [the Bobs](#) have the "What would you say you do here?" conversation with misguided employees, except the discussion will be over what the law says our elected leaders are supposed to be accountable for day to day, legislative session to legislative session, hearing to hearing, budget to budget.

The result may be a little less confusing, and a whole lot fairer, for the rest of us.

The Chalk Bandits: Government Targets Activists Exposing Cover-Ups Through Chalk

by [KIT DANIELS](#) | INFOWARS.COM | NOVEMBER 29, 2014

When one patriot speaks loudly without fear, others realize they're not alone



A group of activists are spreading information about government cover-ups in chalk on the streets of Denmark, which has led to two of its members being charged with crimes despite their activities being completely legal.

Kridtbanditterne 10/7 2014 [VIDEO BELOW](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuPzMhxheu4>

The Chalk Bandits, as the group is known, are using their messages in chalk to attract many like-minded patriots to come out and join them, but now they have attracted the attention of the government.

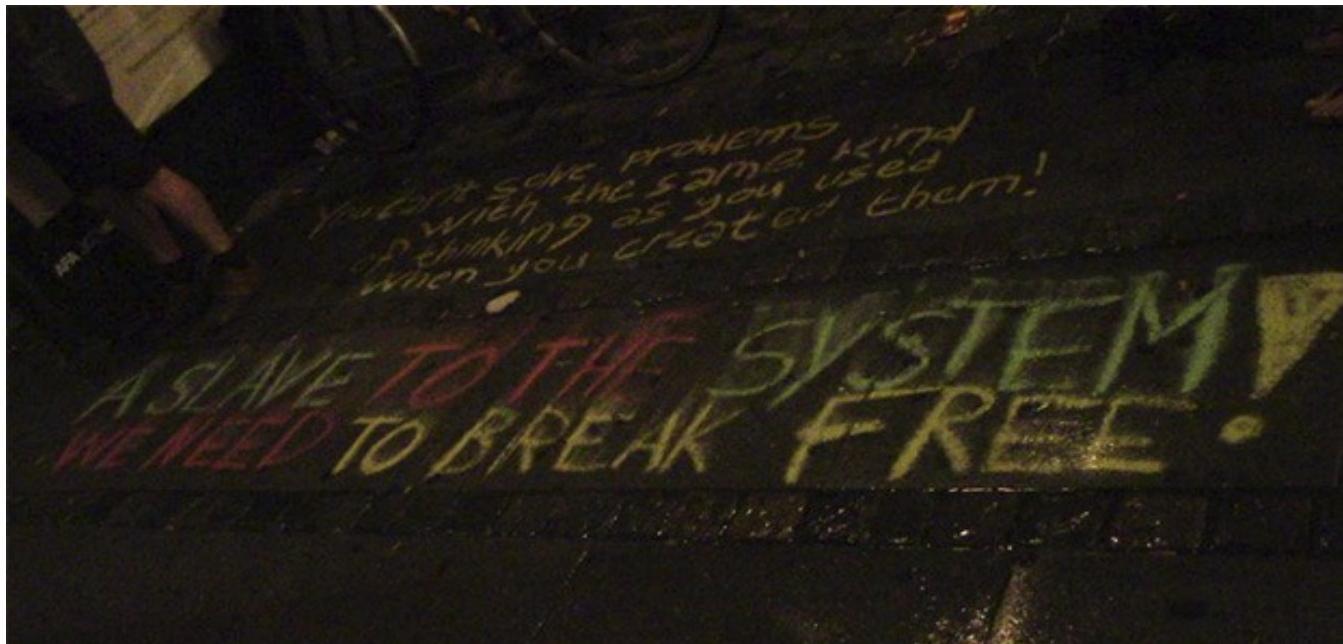
"To write messages on public sidewalks using chalk is legal, but the police are trying repeatedly to stop us even though they have no right to do so," one of the group's members, Nina Andersen, said. "Now they have charged me, and my colleague, with writing messages to the public with chalk in front of the Danish Parliament at Christiansborg."

"A chalk bandit is spreading good energy, spreading information about what is going on and exposes the truth to the people."

The Chalk Bandits have a [group page on Facebook](#).

Chalk Bandits harassed and arrested by Danish police [VIDEO BELOW](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MI-98ILESU









An Armed Society Is A Riotless Society

by JACK PERRY | LEWROCKWELL.COM | NOVEMBER 28, 2014

What truly keeps the peace is the armed citizen



So, when Ferguson got the grand jury ruling they didn't like, they showed how interested they were in justice by burning down the businesses of people that had nothing at all to do with it.

Meanwhile, in the State of Arizona, people showed their solidarity with Ferguson by going to bed. While other major cities held protests, some of which ended up with minor looting, Arizona just did what Arizona does: Conducted business as usual. There was one small protest of about 60 people down in Tempe, close to Phoenix. They argued among themselves, broke into two groups, but then gave up and went home. The next day, businesses were fearlessly open as usual, people were buying early



An armed society is a polite society. Manners are good when one may have to back up his acts with his life.

(Robert A. Heinlein)

Christmas presents, people were getting ready for Thanksgiving and getting their turkeys. Hmmm... weren't Phoenix and Tucson two of the major cities that all the Ferguson "direct action" groups listed as scenes of protest? Yet, both these cities pretty much ignored the call to action, as did the entire state. What happened? That question can be answered below.

First of all, the major metropolitan area and state capital, Phoenix, is controlled by a warlord known as Sheriff Joe Arpaio. He is known as "America's Toughest Sheriff" and he rules with an iron fist. He has a rather growing collection of tanks and armored personnel carriers but unlike many other departments, these are not just for show. Sheriff Joe will actually use his armor assets if he goes to the trouble of hauling them out. Everyone knows Sheriff Joe is the Warlord of Phoenix and basically runs Maricopa County, including Phoenix. No one in the county and city government has more power than he, and he has proven this to them many times. There have been numerous attempts to topple Sheriff Joe and none have succeeded. Even the federal government and AG Eric Holder have failed to unseat the Warlord of Phoenix. Far from intimidated by the feds, Warlord Joe retaliated by launching his own investigation into a federal judge in the area, as well as investigations into President Obama himself. Warlord Joe runs a jail that is a collection of fenced in tents called his "Tent City Jail". To be sure, this is Warlord Joe's concentration camp and no one wants to be carted off to it. People know what will happen if a riot starts in Phoenix. There will be three destinations for the rioters: Tent City Jail, the hospital, and the morgue. The Warlord of Phoenix had people watching Phoenix for any sign of unrest when the Ferguson grand jury finding was released. However, this is not what discourages riots in Arizona.

Our state is run by a governor who is actually our shogun. Arizona state law says that the governor can raise his or her own private army of armed citizens to secure the state during an "emergency". What is or is not an "emergency" is up to the shogun to decide. This goes well beyond the Arizona National Guard, because this militia would be composed of armed citizens called to volunteer by the Arizona Shogunate. It would not be a federal military masquerading as a "National Guard". Therefore, such a force would be wholly outside the control of the federal government. Now, the governor also has access to a quasi-police force of armed, unpaid volunteers known as the Arizona Rangers. But the law says the shogun can raise the additional force of a citizen militia as mentioned above. What's more, the militia would answer to the shogun (our governor) alone. Even if the federal government said "You can't use your National Guard to quell that riot", the governor as shogun could snap his or her fingers and raise an army of several thousand armed citizens. What's the federal government going to do about that? However, this is not what discourages riots in Arizona.

While our police forces here are heavily-militarized, there is a flip side to this coin. The state and state politicians have made it possible for the citizenry themselves to be generously armed, carry those arms,

and use them in self-defense. The Warlord of Phoenix and the shogun cannot be everywhere at once, but armed citizens can be and will be. What's more, the weaponry available to citizens here would boggle the minds of the citizens of "progressive" states. Go into an Arizona gun shop that is a Class 3 weapons dealer. You will see M-60 machine guns. You will see M2 Browning .50 caliber heavy machine guns. Submachine guns of every flavor. Many of these gun shops will even help you fill out and submit the federal paperwork. Semi-automatic rifles are quite common. You can carry them loaded in your vehicle and many people do. No permit is required to carry a loaded firearm here for self-defense, either concealed or open. Self-defense laws here are very generous. Basically, they're "Stand Your Ground" and "Castle Doctrine" laws on steroids. This means if a riot started and rioters were trying to drag motorists from cars and assault them, they'd probably wind up getting themselves shot. If they tried to break into businesses to loot or torch the businesses, they'd be met with gunfire.

This is the real reason we don't have huge riots here with blocks of businesses reduced to smoking heaps of rubble. It isn't Sheriff Joe, his tanks, or the governor. It's the individual armed citizen. People here work hard to build businesses. They put their lives into them and they're not going to step aside and let someone torch their dreams in an agitator-sponsored temper tantrum and looting-fest masquerading as "outrage". People here defend themselves, have the weapons to do so, and laws that make it possible. Rioters might make it past the Warlord of Phoenix, if they're lucky. They might defy the Shogun of Arizona. But they will not make it past the armed citizens defending their homes and businesses. Everyone here knows this. They know a huge riot would become a mass suicide mission for the rioters. Protests happen and everyone is fine with that. But everyone knows there is a line that cannot be crossed—orelse. Because it will not be tolerated and people won't cower and wait for the government to save them. They will save themselves.

Arizona is a different world. We've only been a state since 1912 and the Old West is still very much alive out here. Armed citizens are very common. No one pays any attention to it. People here don't rely solely on the government to protect them because they know the government can't. There are people here who live hours away from the nearest law enforcement authorities. A woman being stalked in this state isn't just told "Well, maybe you should get a restraining order..." People also tell her, "Time to buy a gun and learn how to use it."

It also isn't that Arizona doesn't care about Ferguson. It's that, for the most part, we know the answer to those problems lies in one place: The free market. That's why our businesses were open as usual. Protesting and rioting isn't going to ever solve anything. All you're doing is chasing out the businesses in your neighborhood and creating a "concrete desert" devoid of goods and services that you are now going to have to live in. Many of those businesses that burned will not be coming back. Even if they wanted to, they might not be able to obtain insurance to do so. Businesses that want to open there will not be able to obtain loans. The police might not be able to stop you from looting and burning businesses and you might think you got away with that. But the market can and will create consequences for your actions also. The answer isn't burning down the businesses in your community, folks. The answer is opening your own. Destruction never solves anything but only causes yet more problems. Creating is what solves problems. That's what the free market teaches and will be teaching.

So, police departments can buy all the tanks and military gear they want to. They aren't what truly keeps the peace, as we see in Ferguson. What truly keeps the peace is the armed citizen.

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